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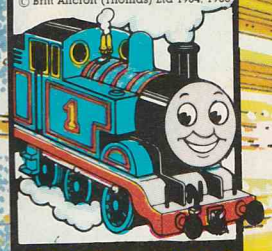


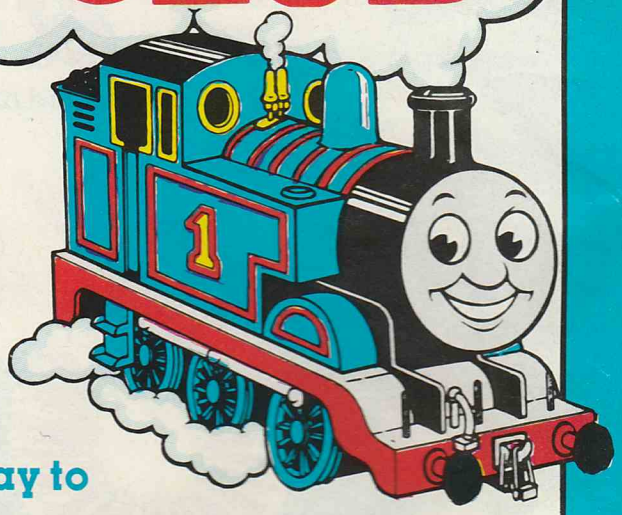
12th Nov. 1988
No. 28 38p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Hurry, James! Hurry!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Whizzz! Zooom! James is lucky to be out on Guy Fawkes Night, isn't he? You can read how Useful he is by reading the story on page 8.

Are you going to a public firework display? That really is the very best way to have a *splendid* time! Peep! Peep!

SUBSCRIBE TO THOMAS!

Be sure of your copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight by taking out a subscription. That means that every issue will be sent straight to your home. You will **automatically** become a member of the Thomas Club **and** receive a splendid Thomas Pack! See page **18** for details!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

Would you like to join the **Thomas Club** without subscribing and have your own membership card and number? Just collect **3 tokens** like the one below. Send one **yellow**, one **red** and one **green** one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope (15× 10cm) to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

The Fat Controller says:

Never play with fireworks!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

With our next issue you will find an extra special surprise! There's a splendid bonus to our magazine – 8 *extra pages* of fun with Thomas and *numbers*!

And don't miss the issue after that, where the fun begins with *letters*! Learning is fun with Thomas! Don't miss issues *29* and *30*!

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your card.

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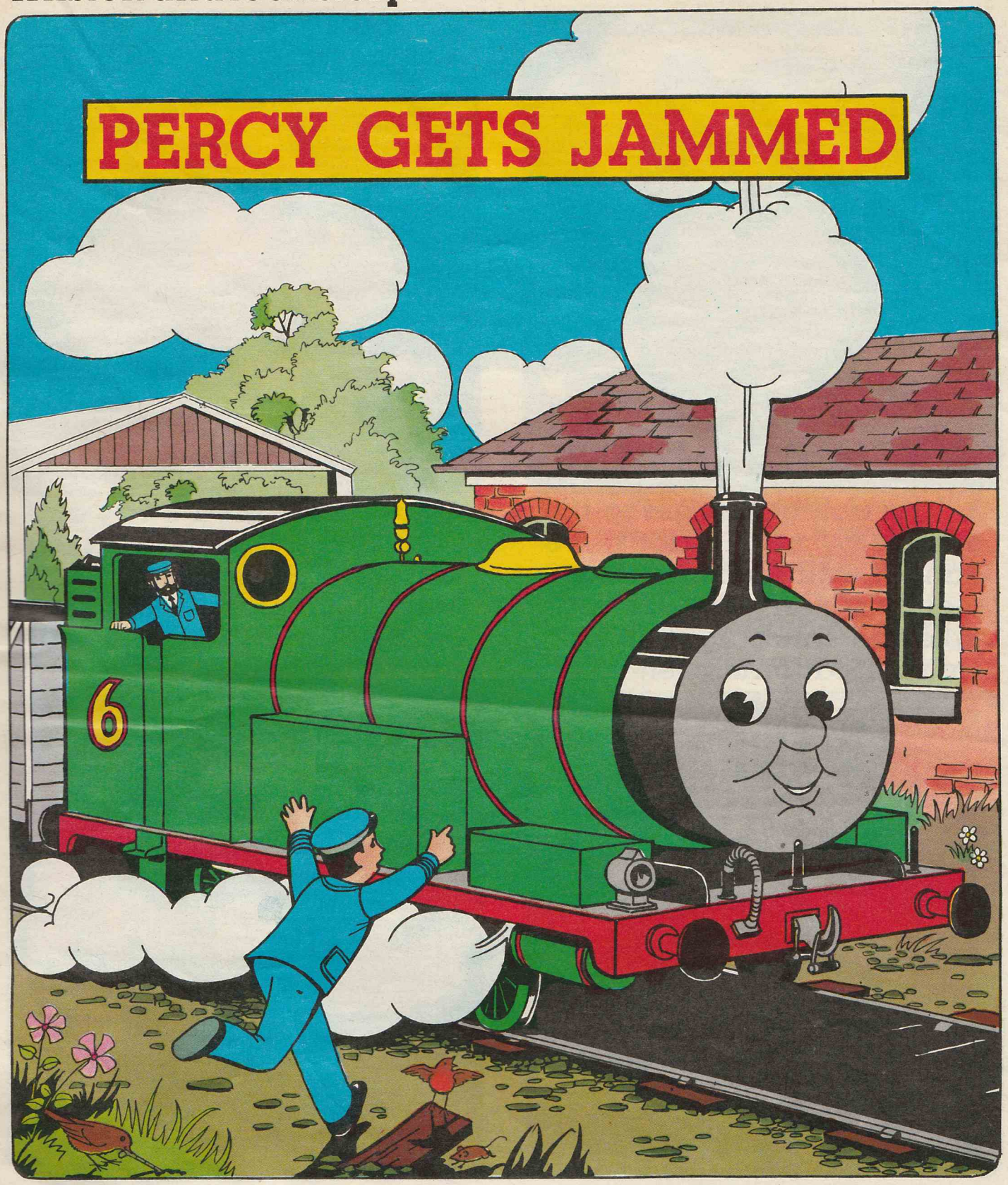
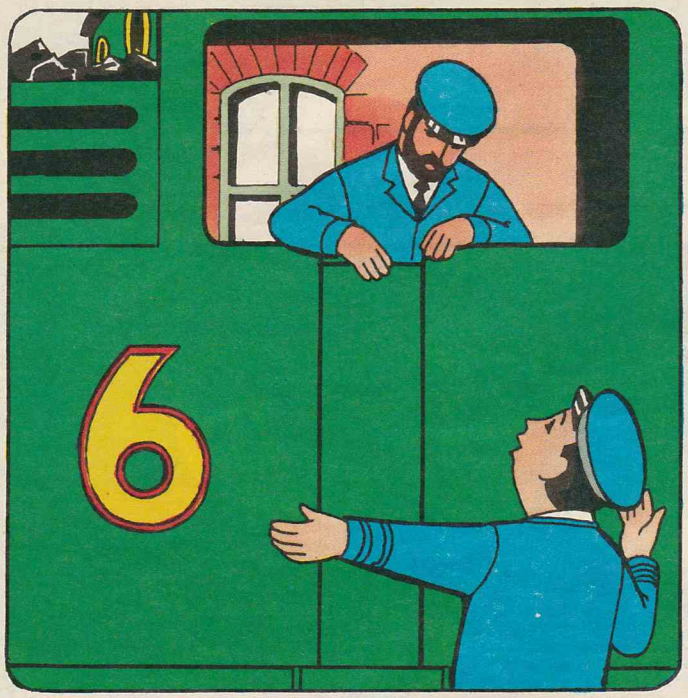
A listen and look story!

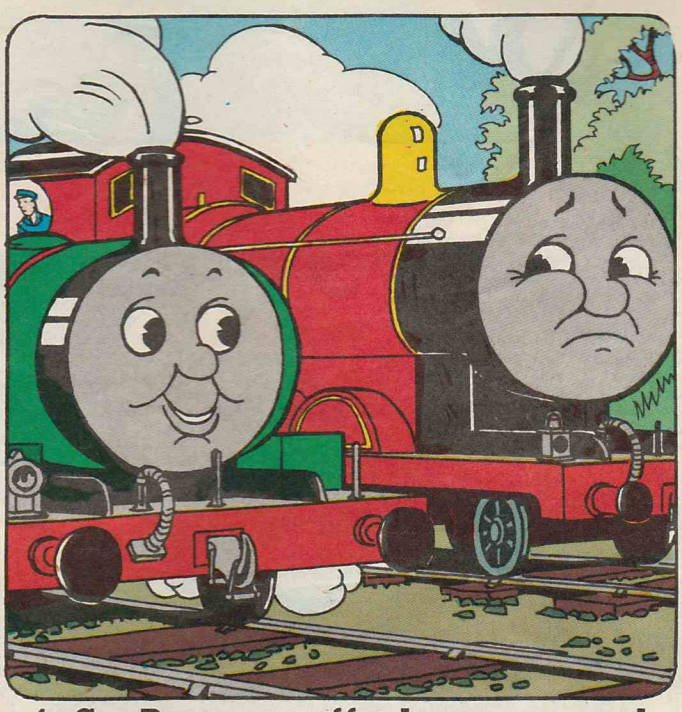


1. Very early one morning Percy was shunting trucks in the yard when the Station Master came running towards him. "Quick, quick!" shouted the Station Master.

2. "What has happened?" asked Percy's driver. "James's brakes have jammed!" said the Station Master. "He was taking a truck full of fruit to the market."

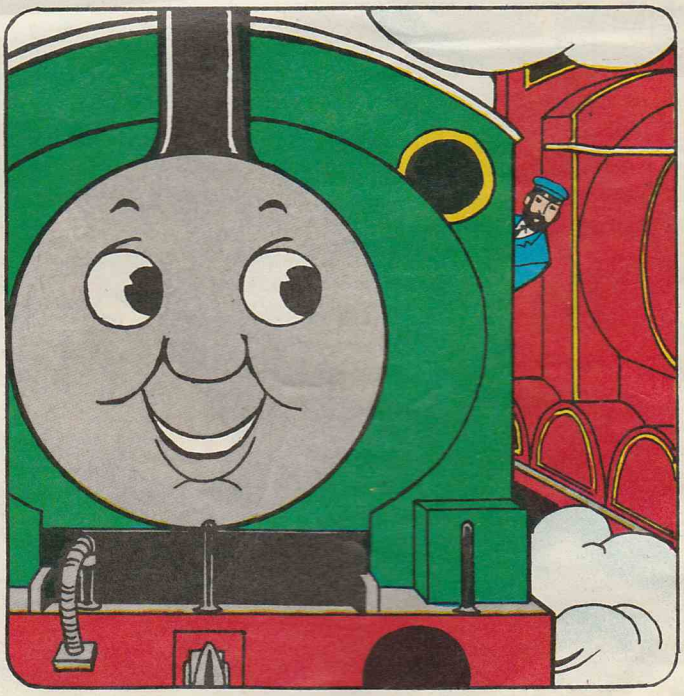


3. "The fruit has to get to the market by nine o'clock. We cannot wait for James to be mended. Percy will have to take the truck right away," said the Station Master.



4. So Percy puffed away and soon found James stuck on the line. He laughed and laughed. "Jammed your brakes? Ha! Ha! Ha! Silly old James! Stuck, eh?"

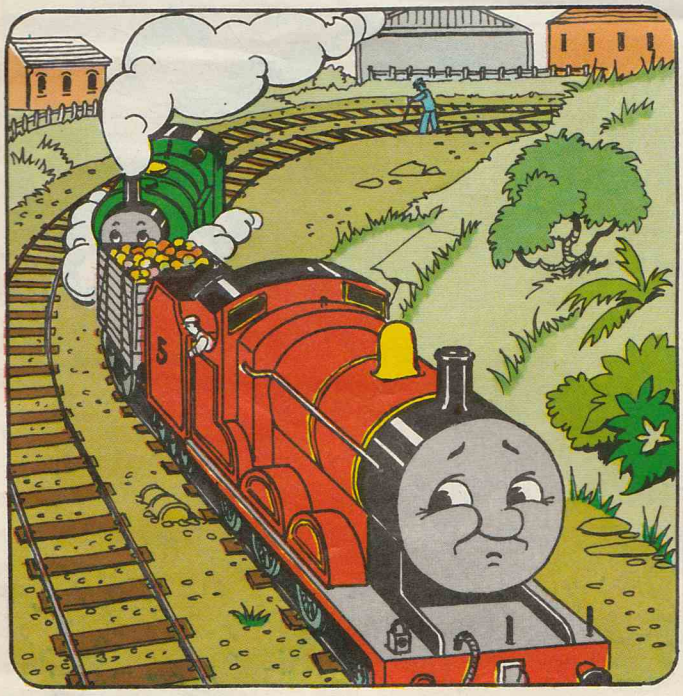
5. James did not look at all pleased. "It's all right for you to laugh, young Percy," he said. "You would not laugh if you had jammed your brakes. It's very uncomfortable."



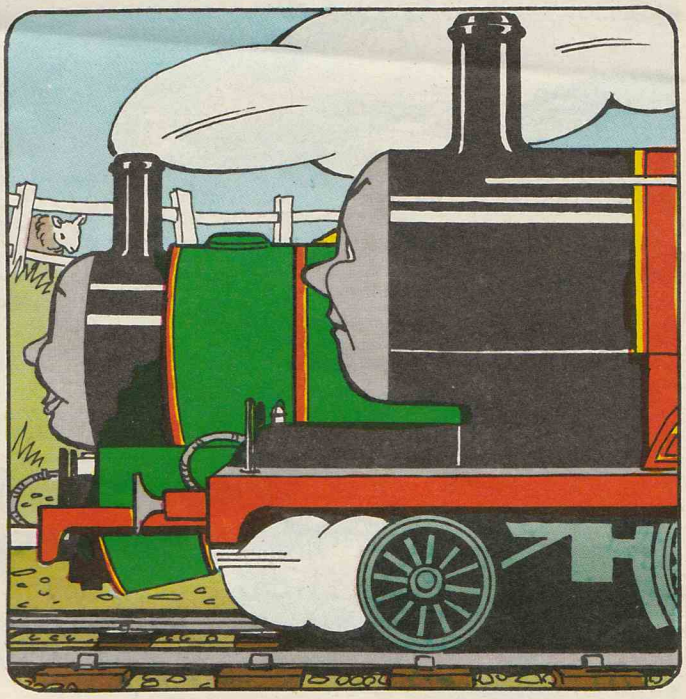
6. "I would not be so silly as to jam my brakes," said Percy cheekily. "Stop being cheeky, Percy, we have work to do," said Percy's Driver, leaning out from the cab.

7. There was not time to turn Percy round. "You will just have to push the truck if we are to get the fruit to the market on time," said his Driver scratching his chin.

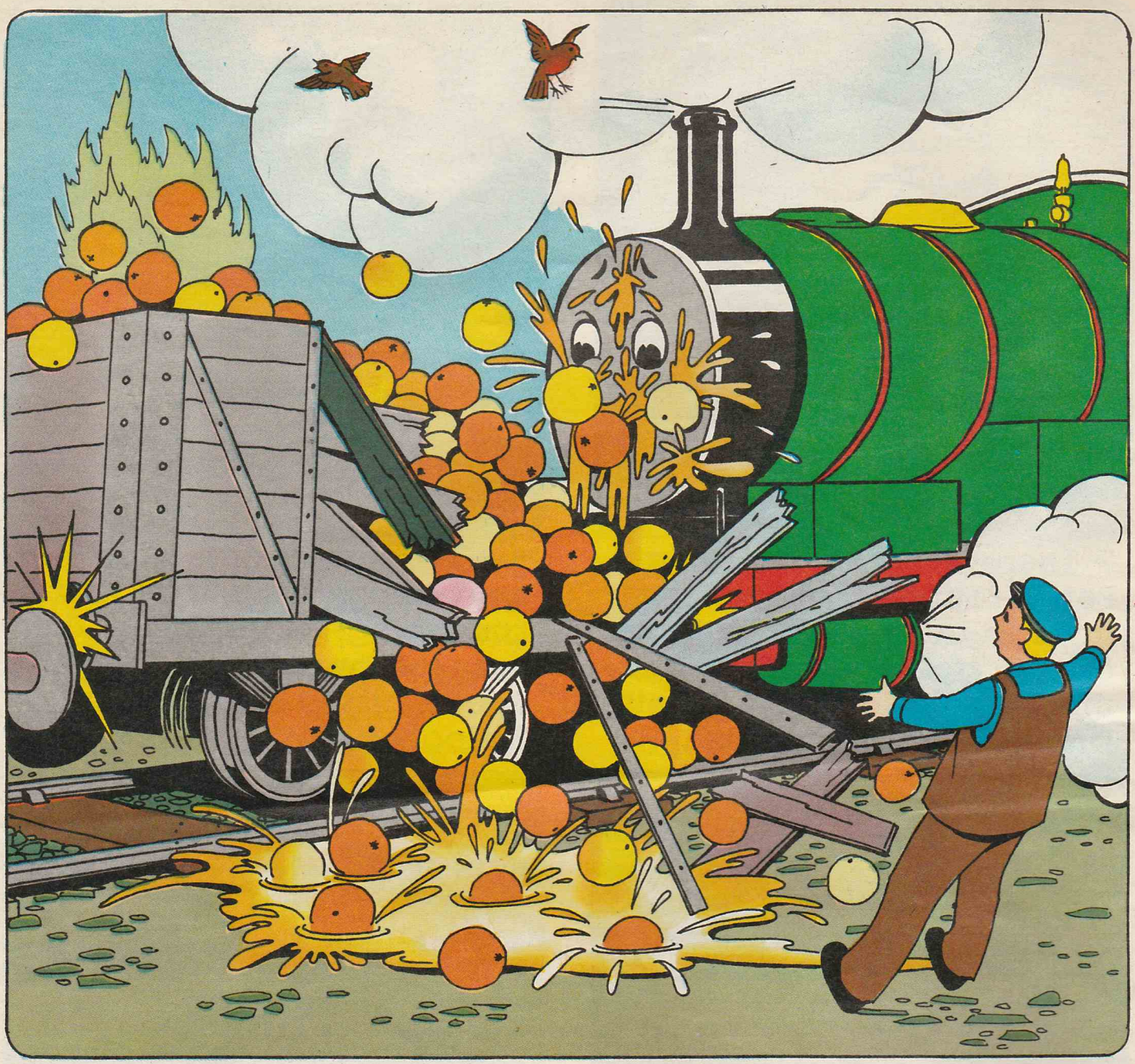
8. "Of course I can push it," said Percy. "I will have to if I am going to make up the time lost by poor old James!" James hissed steam angrily. He looked most annoyed.



9. The truck was coupled on to Percy at the front. "Off we go!" said Percy. "I will have to go fast to get there in time. These big engines will keep letting us down."



10. "Now then, Percy," said his Driver, "do not go too fast or you might damage the fruit." But Percy was not listening and he steamed off as fast as he could.



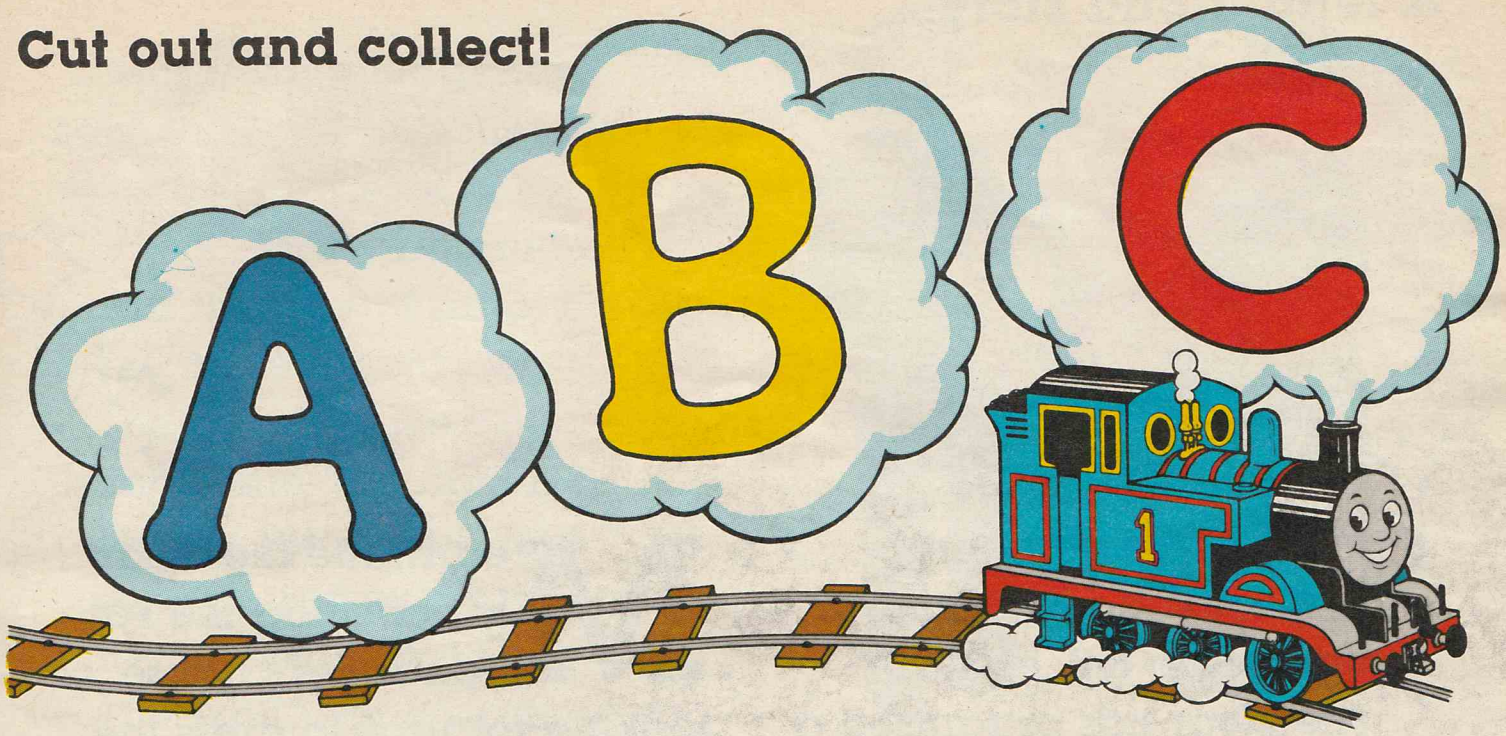
11. Percy was giggling and would **not** slow down. Soon the buffers at the end of the track came into view. "Look out, Percy! shouted his Driver. He put his brakes on as hard as he could. But Percy could not stop fast enough. The truck hit the buffers and split open. Fruit spilled out everywhere and all over Percy.

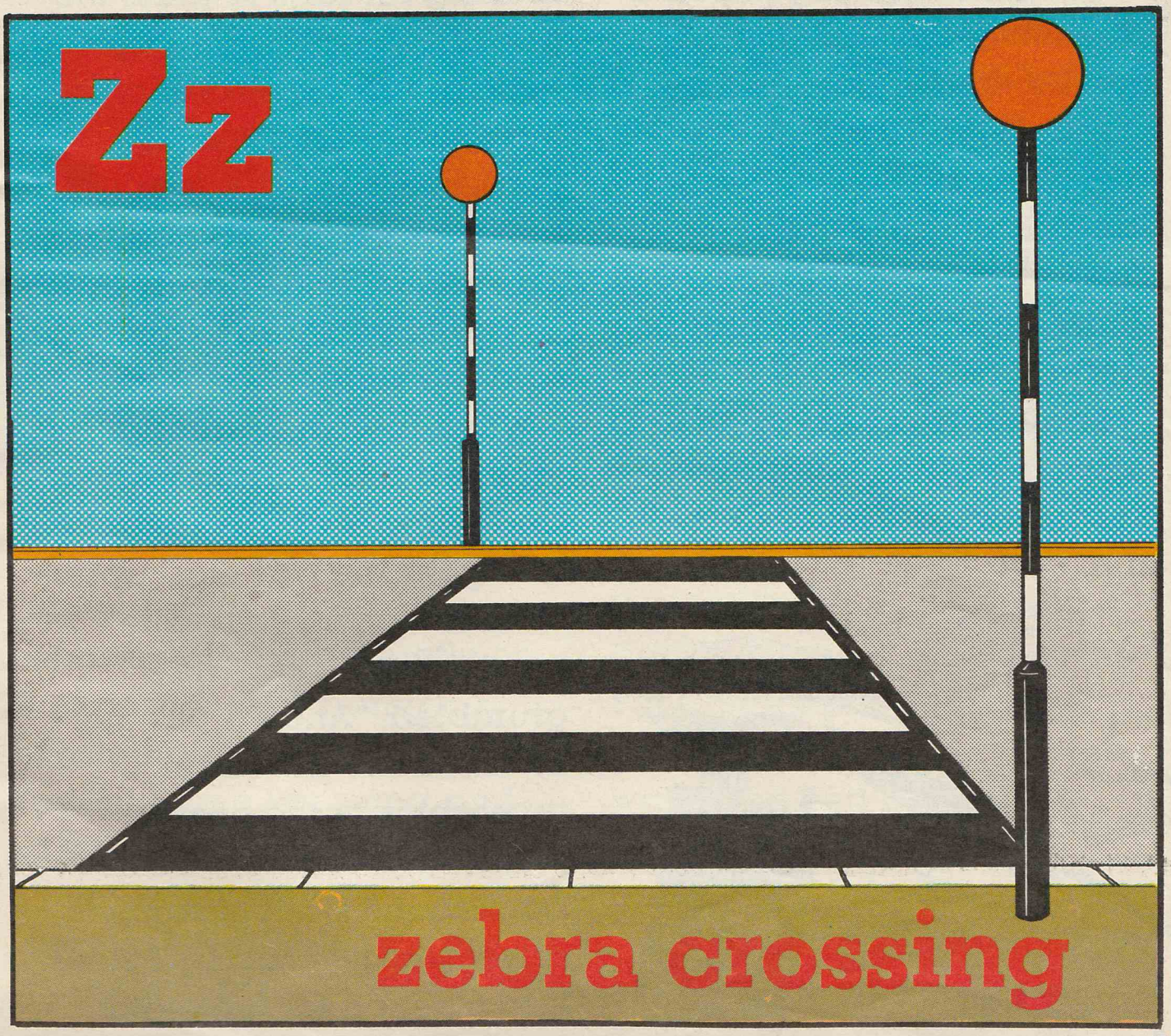
12. What a mess! The Fat Controller was angry. "You have ruined all the fruit and this poor truck will have to go to the works," he said crossly. When James heard about the accident he laughed. "Percy got properly **jammed**! Serves him right for being cheeky to me!" Percy said nothing. He knew James was right.

THE END

More fun on the line in our next issue!

Cut out and collect!





A read-aloud story!

Race to the Bonfire

Trevor the Traction Engine had exciting news to tell James.

"The vicar has organised a fireworks party. There'll be a bonfire, and a guy, and hot chestnuts," he said.

"How marvellous," thought James, returning to the station after a trip to the quarry. "I wonder if I shall be allowed to go."

"Engines don't go to firework parties," snorted Gordon, when James told him.

fireworks

Meanwhile the vicar was visiting the Fat Controller's house, looking for rags to dress the guy in.

"Take this old jacket of my husband's," said the Fat Controller's wife. "It is full of holes and really no good to anyone."

"Thank you, dear lady," said the vicar.

When the Fat Controller returned home that evening and found that his old jacket had gone, he was most upset.

"That was my favourite gardening jacket," he grumbled. "And I'd put the list of all the new train timetables in the **pocket!**"

The Fat Controller hurried back to the station. James's driver was just easing James into his shed for the night.

"This is an emergency," said the Fat Controller. "We must get to the vicar's fireworks party before he burns the guy. I simply **must** have those timetables."

The guard stoked up James's fire, the driver released the brake, and James pulled out of the shed, into the starlit night.

The Fat Controller stood in James's cab. "Hurry, James, hurry," he said.

As James steamed over the viaduct, he could see fireworks exploding into the most splendid and beautiful colours all around him.

James's driver let off steam as they neared the village green. James could see that the old straw guy was already burning brightly on top of the large bonfire. Standing well back from it, people were laughing and singing.

"Upon my soul," groaned the Fat Controller. "We are too late."

Just then the vicar came up to the Fat Controller. He was wearing the old jacket.

"I thought it was too good to throw out," he said. "So I kept it for Jed, for when he's working in the fields."

The Fat Controller was very happy when the vicar rummaged in the pockets and gave him back the timetables. Then he handed back the jacket. After that the Fat Controller, James, his driver and guard stayed to watch the end of the magnificent fireworks display.

"Wait until I tell Gordon," chuckled James. **THE END**

Through th

Point to the bonfire!

What do you think the man is saying?

What number is Douglas?

What is the boy holding?

How many girls dressed

What colour are their h

How many birds are fly

Can you see two flower

he smoke!

ressed as witches are there?

heir hats?

are flying?

lower pots?

Note for parents

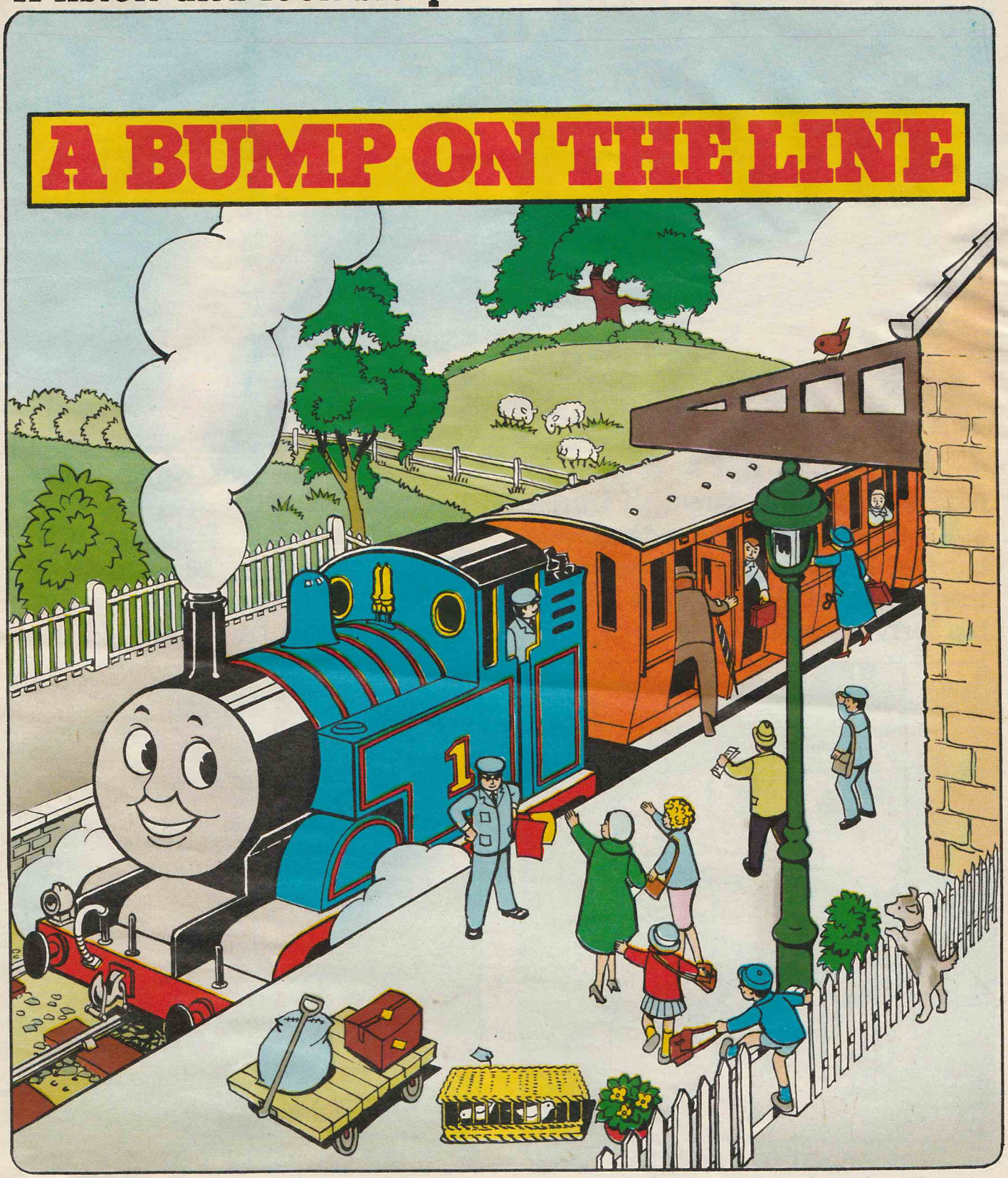
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next: Cows on the line!

JOIN THE DOTS!

It's Hallowe'en and there's lots of fun in the yard! Join the dots to complete the picture and then you can finish colouring it in!

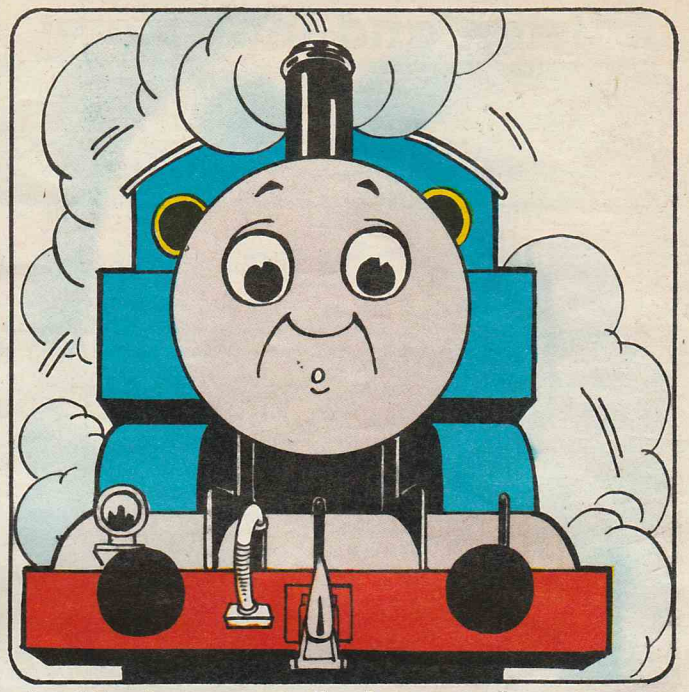
A listen and look story!



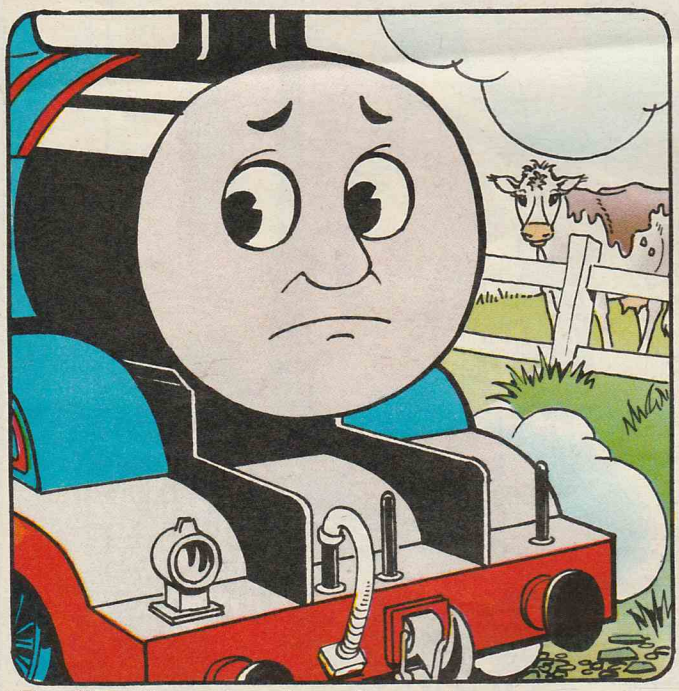
1. Thomas enjoys working on his branch line. He knows all of his regular passengers. Every morning he takes them to work and every evening he brings them home.

2. "Hello, Thomas," they say when he arrives at the station. "Hello, Annie and Clarabel." When they are all on board, the Guard blows his whistle and off they go!

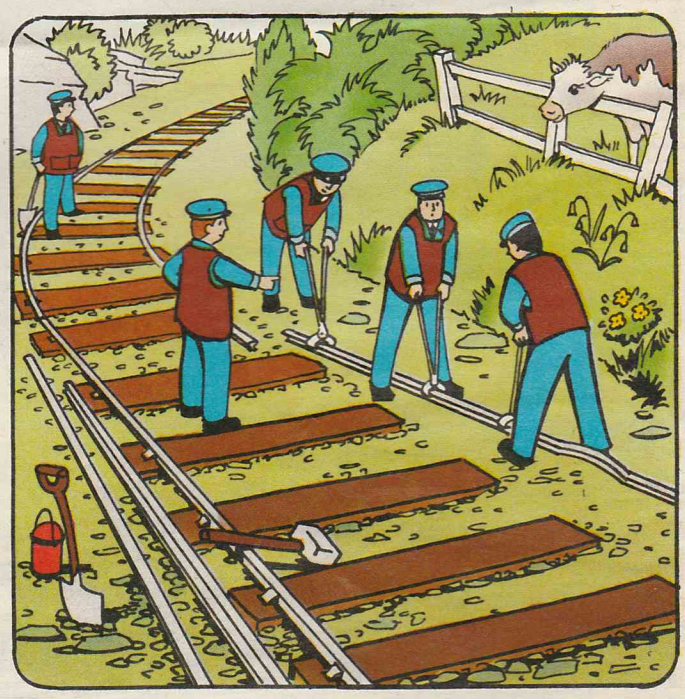
3. Thomas knows every bit of track along his branch line – even the place where there's a bump, before the second station. "Careful, Thomas," says his Driver every time.



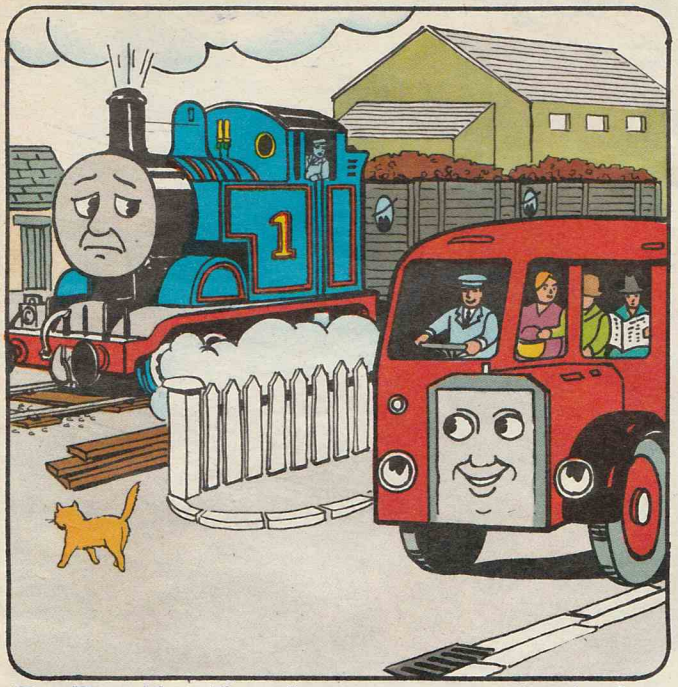
4. "I know, I know," says Thomas. **Bump! Bump!** One day Thomas's Driver said, "Tomorrow they're going to start laying some new rails. The line will be closed."



5. "But what about my passengers?" asked Thomas. "Who will take them to work and bring them home again?" "Not to worry," said his Driver. "They'll be looked after."

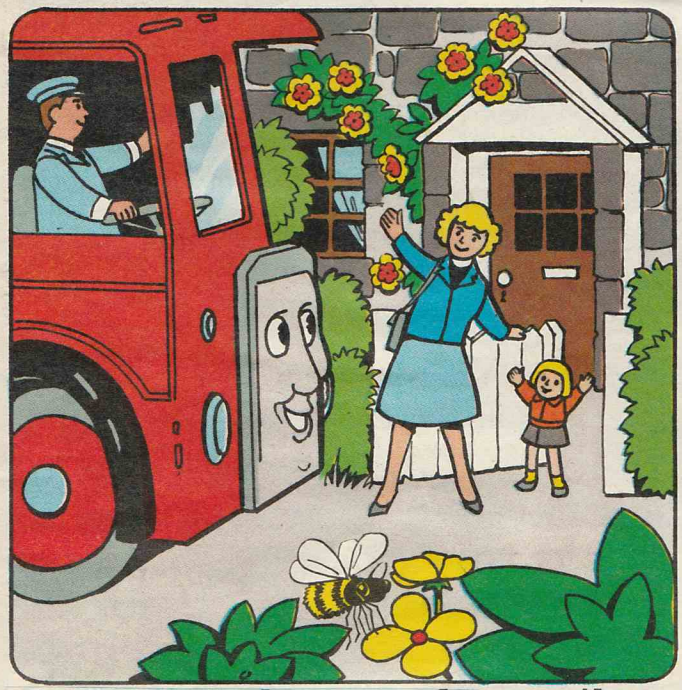


6. Sure enough, the next day the line was closed. The men went to work, taking up the old, worn rails, and laying down new ones. Thomas had to shunt trucks in the yard.

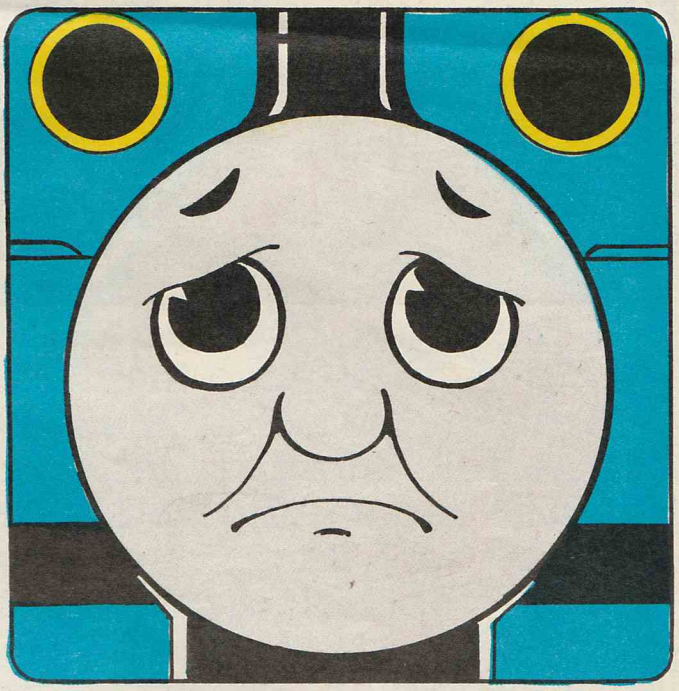


7. Bertie the bus came to take Thomas's passengers. He stopped by the yard on the way to the station. "Hello, Thomas," he said. "I see you need my help again."

8. "I can't run without my rails," said Thomas. Bertie drove to the station to collect his new passengers. "Hello, Bertie," they said. "We are glad you're here."



9. Bertie drove along the road, and stopped at each station on the line. Sometimes he would even stop between stations, to let someone off closer to home.



10. For two weeks the men were working on the line. Thomas was very sad. "I've lost all my passengers to Bertie," he thought. "They like him better than me."

11. Thomas bumped his trucks as he shunted them. He wished he could be pulling Annie and Clarabel instead. At last the men finished their work and the Branch Line was ready to open again. Thomas was worried as he pulled up to the station. "I probably won't have any passengers now," he thought. "They all prefer riding on Bertie," he thought to himself.

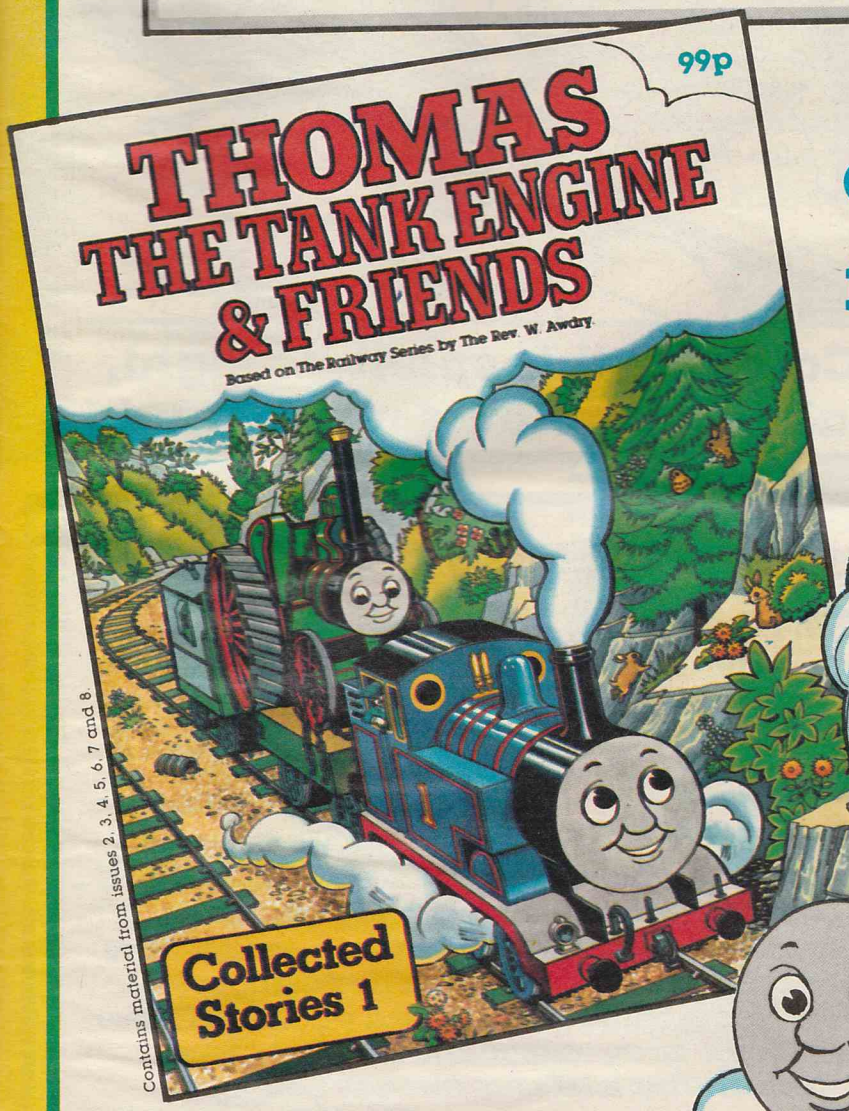
12. But when he reached the platform, there were all his passengers as usual. "Hello, Thomas!" they said. "Hello, Annie and Clarabel! Bertie was a very good bus, but we find the train is quicker." Thomas puffed away so happily that he even forgot to be careful of the bump. But it didn't matter, because the sleek new rails didn't have a bump!

THE END

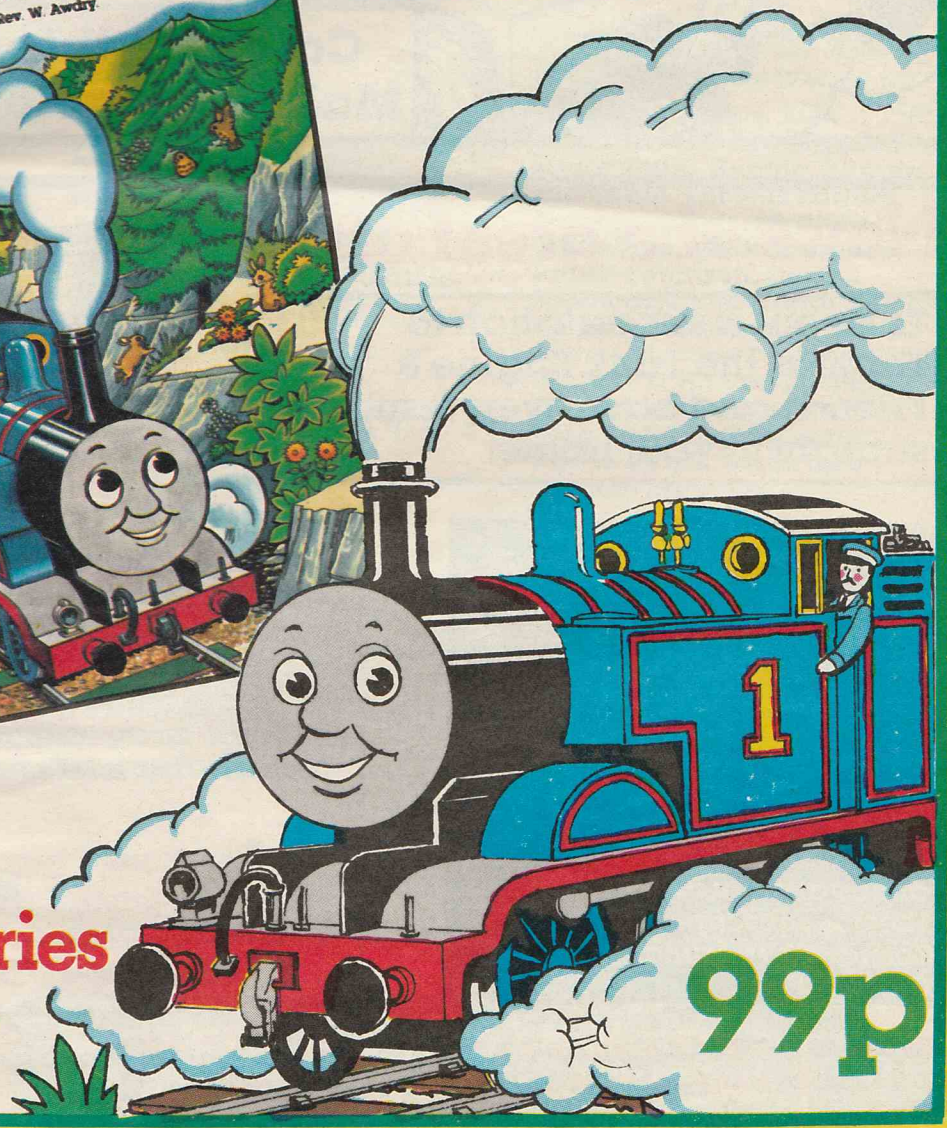
Don't miss our next issue!

It's the...

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS SPECIAL



coming down the line!



Packed with favourite stories and puzzles!

99p

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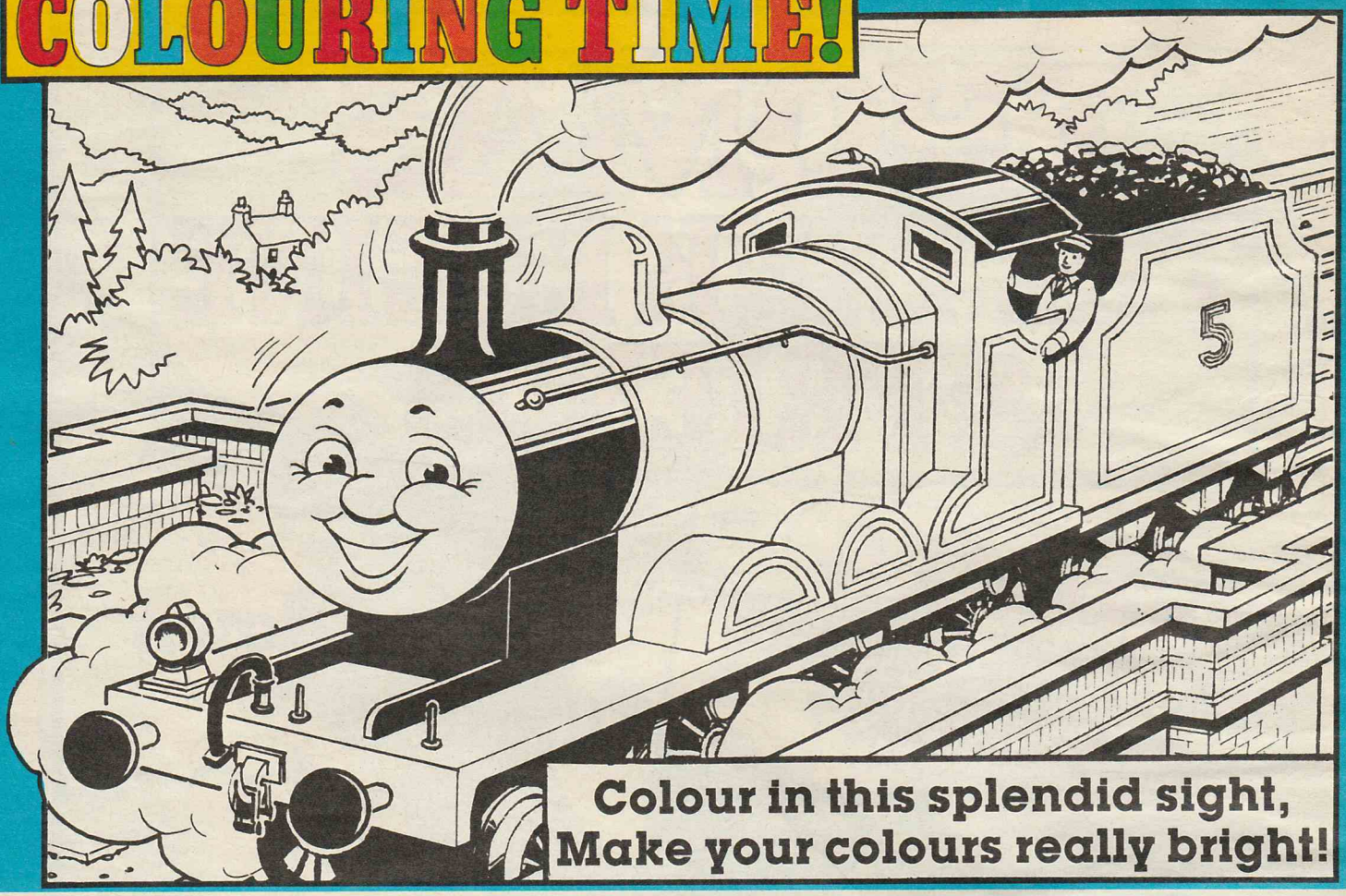
COLOURING TIME!



**Colour in this splendid sight,
Make your colours really bright!**

News of a great offer!

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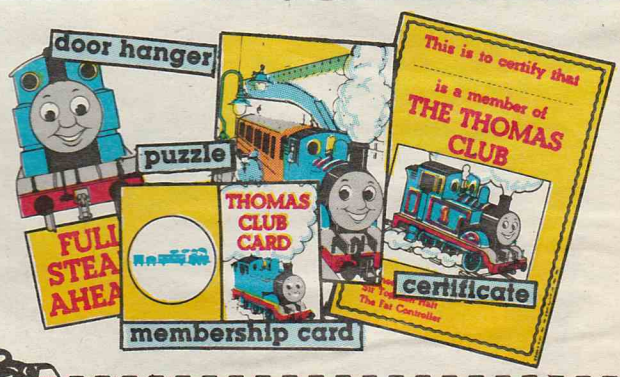

What's more, if you do not already belong to the **Thomas Club,** you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting **Club Pack** will be sent to you too!
It costs **£9.75** including postage and packing, to be sent **26 issues** of **Thomas the Tank Engine.** Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to: *Thomas subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

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Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,

Mummy and Daddy took me on the West Somerset Engine. It was big and black with six coaches. I held the tickets and had a lovely time.

Lots of love, **Matthew**, aged 2.

Thank you for your letter, Matthew. I am glad to hear the West Somerset Engine is doing well.

Matthew wins a set of ***Thomas vinyl stickers*** *from Scorpio Products International Ltd.*

SWEET TOOTH?

Dear Fat Controller,

Does Thomas like sweets?

From **Nigel**, aged 7.

No, Thomas only likes good, black coal. I am very fond of humbugs, however.

BEST TO WAIT!

Dear Fat Controller,

My mummy is having a baby soon and I want to call it Thomas but my mum told me to wait because it might be a girl.

Love **Barry**, aged 7.

I think that is wise advice, don't you?

ACCIDENTS!

Dear Fat Controller,

Why do the engines have accidents?

From **Jonathan**, aged 5

Sometimes it is because they are not paying attention, Jonathan, but very often it is not their fault at all.

A special hello to Derek Scott!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our best birthday wishes are puffing their way to:

Timothy Hawkins, Alex Turnbull, Matthew Higgins, Stuart Rodic, George, Andrew Dickinson, Thomas Pawley, Nicholas Sands, Matthew Wiffindale, Mark Lawrence, Robert Ferguson, Craig Maclean, Emma Turtle, Jamie Carlisle, Ian Wharton, Stuart Archer, Gemma Dongworth, Michael O'Hagan, Michael Watson, Ria Trill (19379), Tony and Rebecca Burdon, Dainel Ralph, Sarah and Michael Brownlie.

Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard, at least 8 weeks in advance!

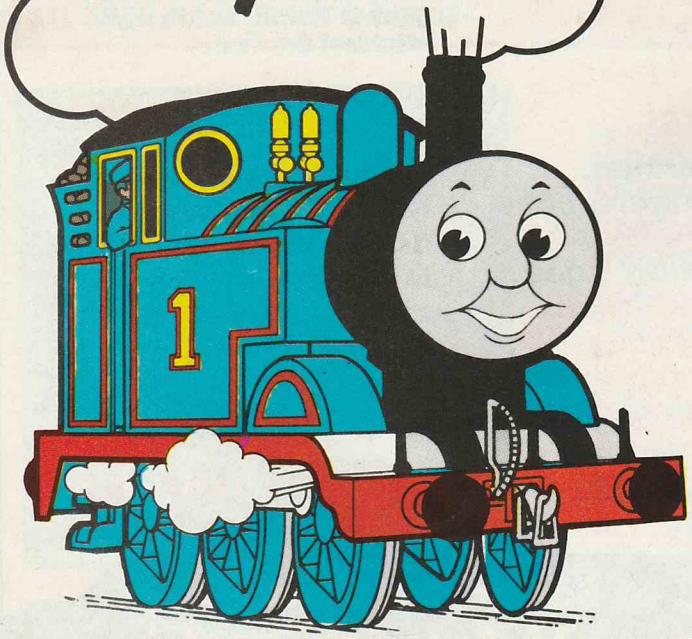
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: **The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2**

Enter my Competition



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